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86. Prize Problem ; \$2.50 for the best solution.

Two spheres of equal size are in motion on a smooth horizontal plane, and, on meeting, their plane of contact coincides with the plane of the meridian. The sphere on the west side is perfectly elastic and weighs $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, while previous to the impact it was moving N. 30° E. with a velocity of 15 feet per second. The sphere on the east side is perfectly plastic and weighs $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, while previous to the impact it was moving N. 45° W. with a velocity of 10 feet per second. Determine the motions of the spheres after the impact.

*** Solutions of these problems should be sent to B. F. Finkel not later than April 10.

EDITORIALS.

Our valued contributor, J. M. Bandy, A. M., Ph. D., is now engaged as chief engineer of the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad.

The mathematical text-books formerly published by Leach, Shewell & Sanborn, of Boston, have been purchased by D. C. Heath & Co. Among the most valuable of these text-books are Osborne's *Differential and Integral Calculus*, Nichols' *Analytic Geometry*, and Fine's *Number System of Algebra*.

Through the kindness of a subscriber, who desires that his name should not be mentioned, we are able to offer a prize for the best solution of Problem 86, Mechanics, published in this issue, furnished by a person under the age of twenty-one years. All solutions must be forwarded to B. F. Finkel on or before May 1, 1899. The object of the donor in giving this prize is to create an interest in mathematics among teachers and young people. The first, second, and third solutions in order of neatness and accuracy will be published.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Plane and Solid Geometry. By James Howard Gore, Ph. D., Professor of Mathematics in Columbian University, Author of *Elements of Geodesy*, *History of Geodesy*, *Bibliography of Geodesy*, etc., etc. 8vo. Cloth, 210 pages. Price, \$1.00. New York : Longmans, Green & Co.

The object of this work seems to be to bring the study of Geometry within the minimum time requisite to gain a fair knowledge of it, in order that a proportionate amount of time may be given to other subjects. The author holds that since other sciences, and even language and philosophy, claim disciplinary merit equal to that possessed by mathematics, the time has come when we can afford to hearken to the demands of the utilitarians and give up those refinements in mathematics which have been retained for the mental discipline they bring about, but which are wholly lacking in practical application.